

NOTES AND NEWS.

WILHELM AUGUST HEINRICH BLASIUS, M. D., Ph.D., a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at his home, Brunswick, Germany, on May 31, 1912, after a prolonged illness. He was born in Brunswick, July 5, 1845, son of the celebrated naturalist Prof. Dr. Johann Heinrich Blasius, the author of 'Säugethiere Deutschlands' and co-author with Count Keyserling of 'Die Wirbelthiere Europas'. His brother the equally celebrated ornithologist Rudolph Blasius died only a few years ago.

Wilhelm Blasius was since 1871 professor of Zoology and Botany in the Herzogliche Technische Hochschule in Brunswick and was director of both the Natural History Museum and the Botanic Garden, in the same city, as well as a member of the Council of the Deutsche Ornithologische Gesellschaft and member and honorary member of many scientific societies. He was a voluminous author of papers and memoirs dealing with ornithology, mammalogy, anthropology and archæology, among them a monographic account of the Great Auk (*Plautus impennis*) which appeared in 1903.

Prof. Blasius visited America in 1907 as a delegate to the International Zoölogical Congress in Boston and will be remembered by those who met him as a man of the most lovable disposition and sterling qualities, whose high scientific attainments were combined with a personality which attracted all with whom he came in contact.

JOHN GERRARD KEULEMANS, the well known artist, died in London, England, March 29, 1912. He was born June 8, 1842, at Rotterdam, Holland, but did not become well known until he settled in England in 1869. From that time on almost every illustrated ornithological work published in England contained products of his brush, from the first volume of the 'British Museum Catalogue of Birds' to the last part of Mathews' 'Birds of Australia.'

ONE is astonished in glancing through the foreign ornithological journals to see the extent to which bird-banding or 'ringing' has been carried recently and the returns that have been obtained. The results are not only interesting and valuable in the case of migrants shot or captured far from the place at which they were banded, but also in the case of 'resident' species.

Mr. N. H. Joy of Bradfield, Berkshire, England, captured and 'ringed,' during two years, upwards of 1500 Starlings in a cage trap located near his house, besides 'ringing' a number of nestlings. Many of these birds were re-caught several times and the accumulation of data is yielding valuable results. Mr. Joy finds that he catches in the trap only about 5% of the nestlings 'ringed' each year, and feels sure that a large number of them

must leave the immediate vicinity where they were hatched. He finds also that a large proportion of winter Starlings are migrants or visitors from elsewhere. Such data bear directly upon the extent of migration in so called resident birds, such as our Song Sparrow which is present as a species throughout the year over a large part of its range, though there is doubtless a migration of individuals to a greater or less extent.

The most remarkable case of long flight recorded among the captures of 'ringed' birds was that noticed in the 'Ornithologische Monatsberichte' for July-August, of a nestling Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) banded at Rossitten, Germany, on the east coast of the Baltic Sea, July 18, 1911, and shot in November of the same year near Bridgetown in the island of Barbados!

MR. LEO E. MILLER, who has been collecting in Colombia for the American Museum of Natural History, and whose success in discovering the nest of the Cock-of-the-Rock was mentioned in the last issue of 'The Auk', reached New York City on September 9, after eighteen months' continuous field work in the tropics. Mr. Miller brought with him some twenty-three hundred birds and mammals collected since the expedition left Cali in the Cauca Valley in February, 1912. A recently completed government road over the eastern Andes enabled Mr. Miller to go from the headwaters of the Magdalena to the headwaters of the Amazon in the Caquetá territory.

He is doubtless the first zoölogical collector to penetrate this region, and during the thirty days which he worked there secured eight hundred birds and mammals; practically none of which were represented in the Museum's previous Colombian collections.

THE U. S. Bureau of Fisheries now has a naturalist on the Pribilof Islands whose duty it is to study not only the fur seals and blue foxes, but all other natural history questions relating to the islands. Exceedingly interesting results are already coming in and we learn from Dr. Barton W. Evermann that in a collection recently received there are specimens representing eighteen species of birds new to the avifauna of the Pribilofs of which four are new to North America. A detailed account of them will appear in the next number of 'The Auk.'

WE learn from 'The Ibis' that Dr. A. J. R. Wollaston sailed May 24, for Borneo where he will prepare for another expedition to New Guinea in conjunction with Mr. C. B. Kloss. They hope to reach the Snowy Range and if possible to ascend Mt. Carstensz 15,964 ft.

A FITTING tribute to the last ornithological effort of the late Dr. Bowdler Sharpe — his 'Hand-List of Birds' — is a general index to this work which has been recently issued by the British Museum. This index has been edited by Mr. W. R. Ogilvie-Grant, while the actual task of amalgamating the indices of the several volumes was accomplished by his assistant, Mr. Thomas Wells. It is interesting to know that a specially prepared copy

of the 'Hand-List' has been provided for use in the Museum in which is noted the number of the cabinet and drawer in which each species is to be found. When Dr. Sharpe took charge of the collection in 1872 it consisted of about 30,000 specimens while at the time of his death it was supposed to consist of about 500,000 skins and eggs. We find in the index two genera, *Sharpia* and *Bowdleria* and forty-one species named in honor of Dr. Sharpe, more namesakes apparently than have been bestowed upon any other ornithologist.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the British Ornithologists' Union for 1912 was held in London on May 8th. The officers for the ensuing year are President, Dr. F. DuCane Godman; Secretary, Mr. J. Lewis Bonhote; while Mr. William Lutley Selater was chosen editor of the tenth series of 'The Ibis' covering the six years beginning with 1913.

Medals were awarded to the following members of the British Ornithologists' Union Expedition to New Guinea: Mr. Walter Goodfellow, Dr. A. F. R. Wollaston, Mr. G. C. Shortridge and Mr. Claude H. B. Grant. It was announced that the new edition of the 'List of British Birds' published in 1883 would be ready for the press during the coming winter.

DOUBLEDAY, PAGE & COMPANY, Garden City, New York, announce a work on the Birds of Eastern North America by Chester A. Reed, with 408 illustrations in color and many in black and white.

We are informed that Mrs. M. Blasius, Inselwall 13, Braunschweig, Germany, sister-in-law of the late Prof. Wilhelm Blasius desires to dispose of the specimen of the Great Auk which was contained in his collection. Year by year the specimens of this interesting bird find their way into the public museums where they are likely to remain permanently, so that this is probably one of the last opportunities that will occur of obtaining a specimen.

Soon after the organization of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club in 1890 the members began to form a collection of the nests and eggs of the birds breeding in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and presented it to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia for exhibition in the museum. Later the collection was extended to include specimens of the birds as well, and additional nests were secured, until at the present time all the birds of the two states are represented with the exception of a few accidental stragglers, while out of about one hundred and fifty species known to nest within the region, the nests of one hundred and thirty are represented, all of them actually obtained in Pennsylvania or New Jersey. In many cases accessories have been added and the nest and birds mounted in a natural group. The collection has recently been entirely rearranged and displayed

to much better advantage, and every effort is now being made by the Club to secure nests and eggs of the few species still lacking in order that the collection may be absolutely complete.

As already announced the thirtieth stated meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union will be held at Cambridge, Mass., November 12-14, 1912, with a business meeting of the Fellows on the evening of the 11th; all Members and Associates are urged to attend the sessions. Only those who have attended previous meetings realize how stimulating is this annual association with fellow ornithologists, and how much each one can advance the cause of bird study by helping to swell the roll of those present.